

**COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**  
**12<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF 2020**  
**MINUTES**  
**11 DECEMBER 2020**

**PRESENT:** Rosie Whittaker-Myles Chairman  
Sheenah Hislop Member  
Isatou Smith Member

**SECRETARIAT MEMBERS PRESENT:**  
Deborah Bodden Manager, Secretariat (via phone, in part)  
Lise Hurlstone Administrator/Analyst

**1. Meeting called to order**

The meeting commenced at 2:18pm. The Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting was opened with a prayer.

**2. Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of 14 October 2020 and 6 November 2020 were approved with minor changes.

**3. Outstanding Business**

**a. Amendments to SPL Law and Regs**

Members reviewed the latest version of the draft amendments to the SPL Law. Sections in relation to which amendments are being proposed had been identified by the Legislative Counsel as needing further clarification in order to proceed and members agreed on the same. Following a discussion the clarifications will be communicated to the Legislative Counsel by the Secretariat.

Members additionally reviewed the latest draft amendments to the SPL Regulations, including the prescribed declaration forms. Some changes were agreed upon and will also be communicated to the Legislative Counsel through the Secretariat.

Members will complete their final review over the weekend and submit any final comments to the Secretariat by end of day on Tuesday, 15 December 2020.

**b. Submissions of Declarations**

- i. Members reviewed the responses of declarants from whom they requested further explanation for their declarations. It was agreed the responses were satisfactory and the declarants would be advised of the same.

- ii. Members have and will continue to review the Register as their schedules allow. Notes from recent reviews were handed to the Secretariat Staff to action any queries to be made.
- iii. Members were updated on the status of outstanding declarations and agreed to follow up with relevant parties, including the Attorney General's Office, to ascertain enforcement measures for non-compliance, including those within the Commission's powers.
- iv. Members requested that a list be circulated, for their approval, of any declarations made which are believed to fall outside of the requirements of the SPL Law. It was agreed to keep a record of such declarations, and to also respond to these declarants to advise them that their submission is not required. It is noted that the retention policy for these documents will be as required by section 15 of the SPL Law: "The Commission shall keep every declaration for a period of at least five years".

#### **4. New Business**

##### **a. Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament (LA)**

Members discussed the correspondence received from the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission regarding the HRC's research into Parliamentary Codes of Conduct. Members agreed to respond by letter supporting the HRC's stance on the matter, and in addition to again review the latest version of the draft Ministerial Code of Conduct and submit any further comments to the Cabinet Office for consideration.

##### **b. Request for Comment from Media**

Members discussed a request from local media to comment on the ongoing matter of Speaker McKeeva Bush's court case concerning allegations of assault and disorderly conduct and his recent admissions. A draft letter to the Premier commenting on the matter was also agreed upon, as well as a statement responding to the request for comment from the media.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

#### **6. Action Items**

Members:

- Complete review of the SPL Regulations draft amendments and submit final comments to the Secretariat by end of day on Tuesday, 15 December;
- Continue to review the Register as schedules allow; and
- Provide final comments on draft Ministerial Code of Conduct for compilation/circulation by the Secretariat.

Secretariat Staff:

- Submit final clarifications and amendments to the draft SPL Law and Regulations Amendments to the Legislative Counsel;
- Respond to declarants regarding the request for explanation, per point 3(b)(i);
- Action queries from notes taken during Members' review of Register;
- Follow up with relevant parties, including the Attorney General's Office, to assist in compliance with declaration submission requirements;
- Circulate a list, for Members approval, of any declarations made which fall outside of the requirements of the SPL Law. Additionally, create a file in which to store such declarations;
- Draft response to HRC Chair, per item 4(a) above; and
- Draft Responses to Premier and media inquirer, per item 4(b) above.

**7. Items to be Discussed at the Next Meeting**

- a. Amendments to the SPL Law
- b. Register of Interests

**8. Next meeting**

The next meeting date will be agreed via round robin.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:43pm.



---

Rosie Whittaker-Myles

**CHAIRMAN**

**COMMISSION FOR STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE**